

MEDIA RELEASE

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ESPLANADE

ARTS & HERITAGE CENTRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION PRESENTS ART FROM CHINA AND CANADA February 9 to March 23, 2008

Medicine Hat – The Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre presents *Fusion* in the Art Gallery until March 23, 2008.

Fusion is a unique showcase of new paintings from three Chinese artists - Jian Cui, Ming Zhu and Xiaoheng Li, and two Medicine Hat artists - Yulin Wang and Poul S. Nielsen. It came about through the trips Yulin Wang and Poul S. Nielsen have made to China over the last five years to show their work.

"The connecting links between these works on paper and canvas are remarkably energetic brushwork and vibrant tones as well as a strong sense of physical involvement in the act of painting," says Joanne Marion, Curator of Art at the Esplanade Art Gallery.

This is the first time the Esplanade Art Gallery has been involved in an internationally touring exhibition. *Fusion* will travel to Beijing after Medicine Hat and be presented at the Duna International Art Centre in May 2008, then move to Nanjing where it will be shown at the Nanjing Fine Arts Museum in June 2008.

Chinese artists Jian Cui, Ming Zhu and Xiaoheng Li and Beijing gallery director Dong Xia Wu will visit Medicine Hat for the closing reception March 20, and will present workshops and a public talk during the course of their visit March 17 to March 21.

A publication entitled *Fusion* accompanies the exhibition and will be available at the Esplanade Gift Shop in late February.

Public Reception: Thursday, March 20 @ 7:30 p.m.

Meet the five artists and Beijing gallery director Dong Xia Wu at the public reception for *Fusion*. Dong Xia Wu will present a slide talk on contemporary art in Beijing at 8:30 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. All are invited to attend.

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